

REMARKS

Claims 2, 5, 9 and 10 are presented for consideration, with Claim 2 being independent.

The specification has been amended on pages 11 and 12 to correct a translational error. As will be appreciated, these changes to the specification make it clearer that the permanent ink has a penetration higher than that of the reaction liquid, so as to be consistent with the claims as well as other portions of the specification, such as page 22, line 13 through page 23, line 8.

The abstract has been replaced in order to better set forth the technical aspects of the claimed invention.

In the claims, Claim 2 has been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art, and Claims 9 and 10 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-8 have been cancelled.

Applicants are submitting concurrently herewith a Submission of Replacement Sheet of Drawings showing Figures 1 and 2. Figure 2 is presented so as to overcome the objection set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Approval of the Replacement Sheet of drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kubota '197. Claims 1-8 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ono '045. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 of Applicants' invention relates to a recording method for performing recording on a recording medium using a pigment ink and a reaction liquid that has a higher

surface tension than that of the pigment ink and contains a polyvalent metal salt capable of agglomerating the pigment ink. The method includes the steps of applying the reaction liquid on the recording medium, and bringing the pigment ink into contact with a surface of the reaction liquid that is present on the recording medium so that a filmy agglomerate, composed of an agglomeration of pigment aggregates produced by contact between the reaction liquid and the pigment ink, is formed on the surface of the reaction liquid applied on the recording medium. As amended, the pigment aggregates migrate on the surface of the reaction liquid toward a boundary between the reaction liquid and the recording medium, and by the migration of the pigment aggregates, an agglomeration of the pigment aggregates is formed along the surface of the reaction liquid, and thereby the filmy agglomerate is formed on the surface of the reaction liquid.

Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, in Figures 5 and 6 and the accompanying specification. In accordance with Applicants' claimed invention, a high performance recording method can be provided.

The patent to Kubota relates to a recording method that uses a reaction liquid and a pigment ink. In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, however, Kubota is not understood to teach or suggest, among other features, forming a filmy agglomerate on the surface of the reaction liquid applied on the recording medium. The Office Action asserts that Kubota forms a filmy agglomerate by a reaction liquid and pigment ink being in contact with each other. It is respectfully submitted, however, that in Applicants' claimed invention contact between the reaction liquid and the pigment ink forms pigment aggregates. The filmy agglomerate in Applicants' claimed invention is formed on the surface of the reaction liquid by the migration of

the pigment aggregates and the formation of an agglomeration of the pigment aggregates along the surface of the reaction liquid, as set forth in Claim 2.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Kubota fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claim 2, and therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Ono also relates to a recording method that conducts recording with the use of a pigment ink and the reaction solution. Similar to Kubota, however, Ono is also not understood to teach or suggest, among other features, forming a filmy agglomerate on the surface of the reaction liquid applied on the recording medium, with the filmy agglomerate being formed as set forth in Applicants' claimed invention.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of Ono is respectfully requested.

#### SUBMISSION OF OFFICIAL LETTER

Submitted herewith for the Examiner's consideration is a copy of a Chinese Official Letter dated January 5, 2007, in a corresponding Chinese Patent Application. All of the documents listed in the Chinese Official Letter were previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement of April 13, 2005.

#### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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